

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

MIGUEL JOSE GARCIA,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	Civil Action No. 08-1236
)	
v.)	
)	District Judge Arthur J. Schwab
JANET KIMMEL, WILLIAM COLE,)	Magistrate Judge Lisa Pupo Lenihan
W. WOODS, CRAWFORD, R.)	
GILKEY, MICHAEL A. HARLOW,)	
JEFFREY A. BEARD, THE)	
PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT)	
OF CORRECTIONS,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

I. RECOMMENDATION

It is respectfully recommended that Plaintiff's Motion for Injunctive Relief (doc. no. 5) be denied.

II. REPORT

Plaintiff, Miguel Jose Garcia, commenced this action pursuant to the Civil Rights Act of 1871, 42 U.S.C. § 1983 against correctional officials and employees at the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC) and the State Correctional Institution at Mercer. In his Complaint, Plaintiff alleges claims of retaliation, denial of equal protection and due process with respect to Plaintiff's vocational training, denial of state issued soap, denial of legal supplies, destruction of personal property, and discrimination with respect to a misconduct report. In his request for preliminary injunctive relief, Plaintiff seeks an injunction prohibiting Defendants from: transferring him to another institution; placing him in punitive segregation; imposing physical,

mental and verbal abuse; discrimination; moving Plaintiff to another cell block; raising Plaintiff's custody level; denying Plaintiff personal hygiene products; preventing Plaintiff from employment; and denying Plaintiff an annual review for staffing (doc. no. 5, p. 2).

This Court has discretion to grant preliminary injunctive relief under Fed. R. Civ. Proc. 65. The party seeking a preliminary injunction has the burden of demonstrating: 1) a reasonable probability of success on the merits; 2) irreparable harm if the injunction is denied; 3) that the issuance of an injunction will not result in greater harm to the non-moving party; and 4) that the public interest would best be served by granting the injunction. Council of Alternative Political Parties v. Hooks, 121 F.3d 876, 879 (3d Cir. 1997); Clean Ocean Action v. York, 57 F.3d 328, 331 (3d Cir. 1995); Opticians Ass'n of America v. Independent Opticians of America, 920 F.2d 187, 191-92 (3d Cir. 1990). The Court should issue the injunction only if the movant produces evidence sufficient to convince the trial judge that all four factors favor preliminary relief. Opticians, 920 F.2d at 192 (citing ECRI v. McGraw-Hill, Inc., 809 F.2d 223, 226 (3d Cir. 1987)).

The purpose of the preliminary injunction is to preserve the status quo until the rights of the parties can be fairly and fully investigated and determined by strictly legal proofs and according to the principles of equity. Wetzel v. Edwards, 635 F.2d 283, 286 (4th Cir. 1980). Thus, the grant of injunctive relief is an "extraordinary remedy which should be granted only in limited circumstances." American Telephone & Telegraph Co. v. Winback and Conserve Program, Inc., 42 F.3d 1421 (3d Cir. 1994) (quoting Frank's GMC Truck Center, Inc. v. General Motor Corp., 847 F.2d 100, 102 (3d Cir. 1988)), *cert. denied*, 514 U.S. 1103 (1995). The facts must clearly support a finding that immediate and irreparable injury will result to the movant if preliminary relief is denied. United States v. Stazola, 893 F.2d 34, 37 n.3 (3d Cir. 1990). The plaintiff bears the burden

of establishing a "clear showing of irreparable injury." Hohe v. Casey, 868 F.2d 69, 72 (3d Cir.), *cert. denied*, 493 U.S. 848 (1989); ECRI, 809 F.2d at 226 (it is not enough to merely show irreparable harm: the plaintiff has the burden of showing immediate irreparable injury, which is more than merely serious or substantial harm and which cannot be redressed with money damages). Absent a showing of immediate, irreparable injury, the court should deny preliminary injunctive relief. Acierno, 40 F.3d at 655.

Plaintiff's request for injunctive relief is directed not merely at preserving the status quo; instead, it seeks mandatory relief. In this situation, the burden on the moving party is particularly heavy. *See Punnett v. Carter*, 621 F.2d 578, 582 (3d Cir. 1980); Acierno v. New Castle County, 40 F.3d 645, 653 (3d Cir. 1994). Moreover, a request for injunctive relief in the prison context "must always be viewed with great caution because 'judicial restraint is especially called for in dealing with the complex and intractable problems of prison administration.'" Goff v. Harper, 60 F.3d 518, 520 (8th Cir. 1995) (quoting Rogers v. Scurr, 676 F.2d 1211, 1214 (8th Cir. 1982)). Where a plaintiff requests an injunction that would require the Court to interfere with the administration of a state prison, "appropriate consideration must be given to principles of federalism in determining the availability and scope of equitable relief." Rizzo v. Goode, 423 U.S. 362, 379 (1976). The federal courts are not overseers of the day-to-day management of prisons. Prison officials require broad discretionary authority as the "operation of a correctional institution is at best an extraordinarily difficult undertaking." Wolff v. McDonnell, 418 U.S. 539, 566 (1974). Accordingly, prison administrators should be accorded wide-ranging deference in the adoption and execution of policies and practices that are needed to preserve internal order and to maintain

institutional security. Beard v. Banks, 126 S.Ct. 2572, 2578 (U.S. June 28, 2006); Bell v. Wolfish, 441 U.S. 520, 527 (1979).

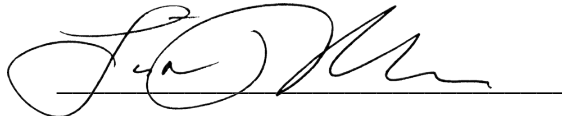
Plaintiff's allegations fail to show any immediate, irreparable injury that will result from the Court's denial of his motion that cannot be compensated with money damages; such relief, if necessary, should be required only after a full review of the relevant facts and law. Accordingly, his motion for preliminary injunction should be denied.

III. CONCLUSION

It is respectfully recommended that Plaintiff's Motions for Injunctive Relief (doc. no. 5) be denied.

In accordance with the Magistrate Judges Act, 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) and (C), and Rule 72.1.4(B) of the Local Rules for Magistrate Judges, the parties are allowed ten (10) days from the date of service to file objections to this report and recommendation. Any party opposing the objections shall have ten (10) days from the date of service of objections to respond thereto. Failure to file timely objections may constitute a waiver of any appellate rights.

November 6, 2008

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Pupo Lenihan', written over a horizontal line.

Lisa Pupo Lenihan

U.S. Magistrate Judge

cc: Arthur J. Schwab
United States District Judge

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